

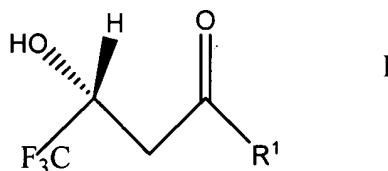
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives of the formula

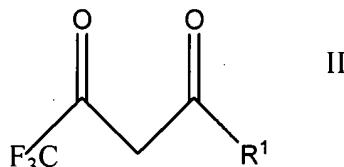


wherein R¹ is

- (a) -OR², in which R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,
- (b) -NR³R⁴, in which R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl or aryl, or
- (c) -SR⁵, in which R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, aryl or C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl,

which process comprises:

- (i) reacting a trifluoroacetoacetic acid derivative of formula II

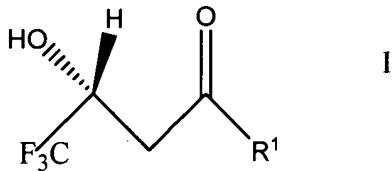


wherein R¹ is

(a) -OR², in which R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,

(b) -NR³R⁴, in which R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl or aryl, or

(c) -SR⁵, in which R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, aryl or C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, with a ~~microorganisms~~ microorganism of the ~~species genus~~ species genus *Escherichia coli*, or cell-free extracts derived therefrom, wherein said microorganism is transformed with a gene encoding a NADPH generator or regenerator and wherein said microorganisms express microorganism expresses an NADPH-dependent enzyme having carbonyl reductase activity which an enzyme which enantioselectively reduces the trifluoroacetoacetic acid derivatives of formula II leading to the production of 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives of the formula:



wherein R¹ is

(a) -OR², in which R² is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,

(b) -NR³R⁴, in which R³ and R⁴ are identical or different and represent hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl or aryl, or

(c) -SR⁵, in which R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₁₀-alkyl, C₂₋₁₀-alkenyl, aryl or C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl; and

(ii) isolating the 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives produced.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim [[9]] 8 wherein the ~~microorganisms of the genus~~ *Escherichia coli* ~~are~~ is selected from the group consisting of a *Escherichia coli* JM109, a *Escherichia coli* HB101 and a *Escherichia coli* DH5.

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 9 or 10 8 wherein the ~~microorganisms of the genus~~ *Escherichia coli* ~~are~~ is transformed with a gene encoding a glucose dehydrogenase.

12. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 11 wherein the ~~microorganisms of the genus~~ *Escherichia coli* ~~are~~ is transformed with the plasmids pKAR and pKKGDH, as deposited under the deposition numbers DSM 11902 and DSM 12566, respectively.

13. (Currently Amended) The process of Claims 8, [[9,]] 10 or 12 wherein said process for preparing 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives is carried out at a temperature of from 5 to 60°C.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 11 wherein said process for preparing 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives is carried out at a temperature of from 5 to 60°C.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to one of Claims 8, [[9,]] 10 or 12, wherein said process is carried out at a pH of from 5 to 10.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 11 wherein said process is carried out at a pH of from 5 to 10.

17. (New) The process according to Claim 8 wherein said process is carried out with *Escherichia coli*.

18. (New) The process according to Claim 8 wherein the NADPH-dependent enzyme is from expression of a gene from *Sporobolomyces salmonicolor* as harbored on plasmid pKAR.